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YUGOSLAVIA

Tito Checks on Party Congress Preliminaries

President Tito was very busy this week checking on final preparations for the regional party congresses that begin next week. Both illness and his preoccupation with foreign affairs have prevented him from devoting much time to party matters during recent months. Stane Dolanc, the secretary of the party's powerful executive bureau, took charge of congress preparations last fall.

This week Tito conferred with party leaders from Macedonia, Slovenia and Montenegro, and others will follow. In addition to these meetings he saw Kiro Gligorov, the executive bureau economic expert who is slated to be President of the Federal Assembly, and Veljko Vlahovic, and old partisan comrade. Vlahovic is a likely prospect for Montenegro's seat on the nine-man collective presidency but a heart problem could interfere.

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BULGARIA

National Party Conference in Progress

Bulgaria's national party conference, which convened on March 20, produced no surprises thus far. The generally lackluster opening report, delivered by first secretary Todor Zhivkov, dealt primarily with striving for higher labor productivity. His remarks were distinguished only by his renewed call for an all-European conference of Communist parties, his slavish praise for the USSR, the Soviet Party and Brezhnev personally, and by his charge that the Maoist leadership in China is acting in agreement with world Zionism.

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The conference is now in its third day. There is no indication how long it will run.

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